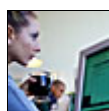


# Summary

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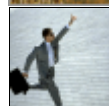
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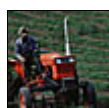
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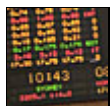
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23/5/2008 Note: Includes minor amendment to Health icon.

# Main Features

## NOTES

## FORTHCOMING ISSUES

### ISSUE (QUARTER)

June 2008

September 2008

### Release Date

15 August 2008

21 November 2008

## NOTE

This publication contains a feature article entitled **Workplace Growth in Victoria 2000-2007**. A list of all previous feature articles published is contained in the Appendix of the PDF version of this publication.

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 23 April 2008.

Explanatory Notes in the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **State and Regional Indicators, Victoria**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

Users are advised that small area estimates presented in this publication should be used with caution.

## **INQUIRIES**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Pam Boulton on Melbourne (03) 9615 7880.

## **About this Release**

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (SRIV) is a quarterly publication that contains recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures according to a triple bottom line of economic, social and environment elements.

Most chapters contain a mix of tables, charts and commentary, to provide a basic analysis of recent movements in key economic, social and environmental data. Data is presented for varying geographic classifications, including, Victoria; Melbourne and the Balance of Victoria; down to Local Government Area for some series. The aim of the publication is to provide a picture of the situation of Victoria and enable comparison, both over time and between regions.

Core data, such as Estimated Resident Population, State Final Demand, Labour Force Statistics, Price Indexes, Building Approvals, Air Quality, and Water Storage Volumes is complemented by periodic annual data including the Condition of Main Roads, Recorded Crime Offences, Life Expectancy at Birth, Government Owned Housing Stock and others. Web pages will be updated as data becomes available.

As the information is sourced from a wide variety of collections, care needs to be taken when analysing the data as time periods, definitions, methodologies, scope and coverage may differ from table to table. Advice is provided in the publication on such matters.

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## State Comparison

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### STATE COMPARISON

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## Summary of Statistical Indicators

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### SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS

This chapter summarises the key Victorian statistical indicators and compares them with the same statistical indicators of other states and Australia.

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## Estimated Resident Population

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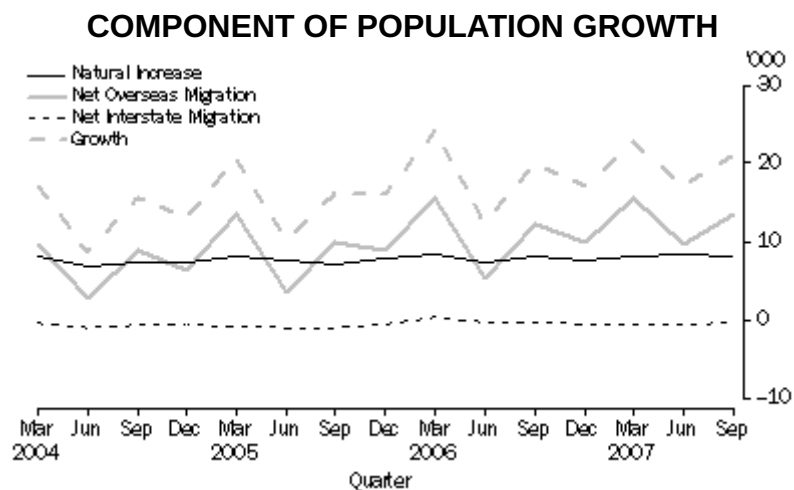
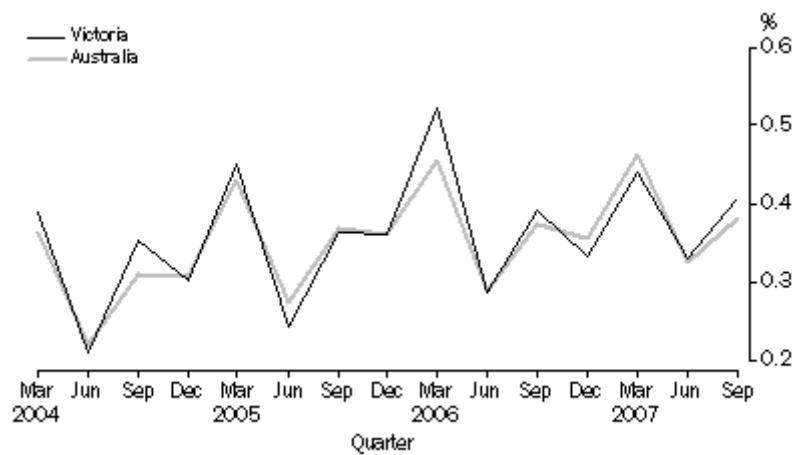
### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

Victoria's estimated resident population (ERP) at the end of any given period is the estimated population at the beginning of the period plus the sum of three components: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

In September quarter 2007, Victoria's ERP grew by 21,200 persons or 0.41%. Australia's ERP grew by 0.38% (79,900 persons) over the same period.

Net overseas migration contributed most to Victoria's population growth in the September quarter 2007 (13,400 persons), while natural increase was 8,100 persons. Net interstate migration was a loss of 300 people. With the exception of March quarter 2006, Victoria has experienced a net loss in population to other Australian states in seventeen of the last eighteen quarters.

### QUARTERLY POPULATION GROWTH



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 2, Estimated Resident Population and Components of Population Change (file size 14kB).

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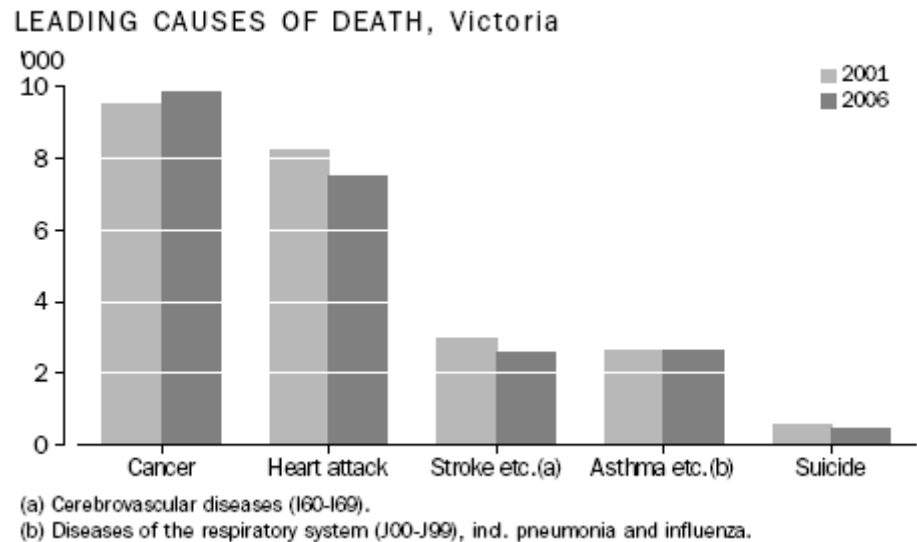
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## Causes of Death

**CAUSES OF DEATH**

In 2006, there were 33,311 registered deaths in Victoria. This represented an increase of 1,016 deaths or 3.1% more than in 2001. Cancer claimed the highest proportion of all deaths (29.4% in 2001 and 29.6% in 2006), followed by deaths from heart attacks (25.5% in 2001 and 22.5% in 2006). Stroke and asthma each accounted for 7.8% of all deaths in 2006, whilst deaths from suicide represented 1.3% of all deaths registered in 2006.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 3, Causes of Death, By Statistical Subdivision (file size 16kB).

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**Government-Owned Social Housing**

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## GOVERNMENT-OWNED SOCIAL HOUSING

For the financial year ended June 2007 there were 72, 962 total government-owned dwellings in Victoria, equating to 14.0 dwellings for every 1,000 people in the population. The total number of dwellings increased by 142 or 0.2% from the previous financial year. Of this increase, Melbourne SD gained 170 dwellings or 0.3% whilst BoV experienced a decrease of 28 dwellings or -0.1%.

In the Melbourne SD, the LGA of Yarra had the largest number (65.2) of dwellings per 1,000 population followed by Port Phillip (36.6) and Moonee Valley (34.6) while Manningham had the lowest (1.9). In the Balance of Victoria (BoV), Wodonga had the highest number (33.6) of dwellings per 1,000 population followed by Latrobe (27.1) and Warrnambool (25.6) while Golden Plains (0.2) had the lowest.

Within the Melbourne SD, the LGA of Port Phillip had the largest increase in total dwellings (113), followed by Maroondah (20) and Moonee Vallee (19) while Melbourne LGA had the largest decrease (-37). Of the 31 LGAs in the Melbourne SD, 16 experienced an increase in total dwellings, 13 experienced a decrease and 2 remained stable.

Of the 48 LGAs in BoV, 16 LGAs had an increase in total dwellings, 23 LGAs experienced a decrease and 9 remained stable. Greater Geelong displayed the largest fall in total dwellings (-57) and Greater Shepparton the largest increase (36).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 4, Government-owned Social Housing, By Local Government Area (file size 16kB).

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## Work and Income

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### WORK AND INCOME

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## Civilian labour force by region

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## CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE BY REGION

As at May 2007, an improved method of estimation for the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was introduced. The new method, known as composite estimation, produces lower standard errors than the previous estimation method. As part of introducing composite estimation, the ABS has revised all labour force statistics back to April 2001, based on the new estimation method. More information on the statistical impacts of this new estimation method is available in **Information Paper: Forthcoming Changes to Labour Force Statistics** (cat. no. 6292.0) released on 21 May 2007.

Between March 2007 and March 2008, the Victorian labour force grew by 31,000 people (1.1%). During this period, the number of employed persons rose by 45,100 (1.7%) and the number of unemployed persons fell by 14,100 (-10.3%). The unemployment rate decreased from 5.0% to 4.5%.

Between March 2007 and March 2008, the labour force grew by 34,300 persons (1.7%) in the Melbourne Major Statistical Region (MSR) and fell by 3,300 persons (-0.5%) in the Balance of Victoria MSR. The proportion of employed persons who worked full-time decreased from 71.4% to 70.3% in the Melbourne MSR and from 69.2% to 68.2% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

The number of unemployed people decreased by 9,500 (-9.5%) in the Melbourne MSR and fell by 4,600 (-12.3%) in Balance of Victoria MSR. The unemployment rate decreased from 5.0% to 4.5% in the Melbourne MSR and decreased from 5.1% to 4.5% in the Balance of Victoria MSR. The labour force participation rate remained constant in the Melbourne MSR (65.7%) and decreased in Balance of Victoria MSR (64.0% to 62.6%).

Within the Balance of Victoria, the All Gippsland statistical region displayed the largest increase in employment (8,000 persons) followed by the Central Highlands-Wimmera statistical region (7,600 persons) and the Barwon-Western District statistical region (7,300 persons). A fall in employment was experienced in the Loddon-Mallee and Goulburn-Ovens-Murray statistical regions (10,900 persons and 10,700 persons respectively).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 5, Civilian Labour Force, By Region (file size 19kB).

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## Employed Persons by Industry

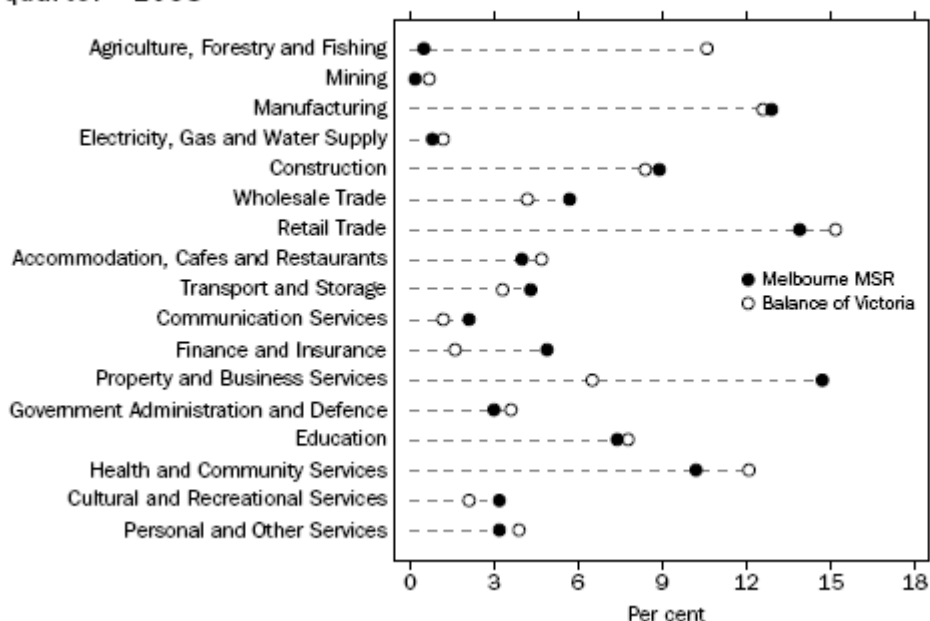
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### EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

In February quarter 2008, the largest proportion of persons employed in the Melbourne MSR were in Property and Business Services (14.7%), Retail Trade (13.9%) and Manufacturing (12.9%).

In the Balance of Victoria, the biggest employers were Retail Trade (15.2%), Manufacturing (12.6%) and Health and Community Services (12.1%).

## EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Industry, Melbourne MSR and Balance of Victoria: February quarter—2008



In Victoria, the Mining and Construction industries had the highest proportion of total males employed (91.3% and 88.9% respectively), whilst the highest proportion of total females employed were in Health and Community Services and Education (79.5% and 66.9% respectively).

In terms of full-time employment, Construction accounted for the highest proportion of males employed in Victoria (94.5%) and Health and Community Services accounted for the highest proportion of full-time females employed (71.3%). In terms of part-time employment, Transport and Storage accounted for the largest proportion of males employed (50.3%) and Health and Community Services the largest proportion of females employed (90.0%).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 6, Employed Persons, By Industry and Major Statistical Region - February Quarter 2008 (file size 18kB).

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## Employed Persons by Occupation

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### EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

In February quarter 2008, there were approximately 1,884,300 persons employed full-time in Victoria. The Melbourne MSR accounted for 1,404,400 (74.5%) of total full-time employed persons and the Balance of Victoria MSR, 479,900 persons (25.5%).

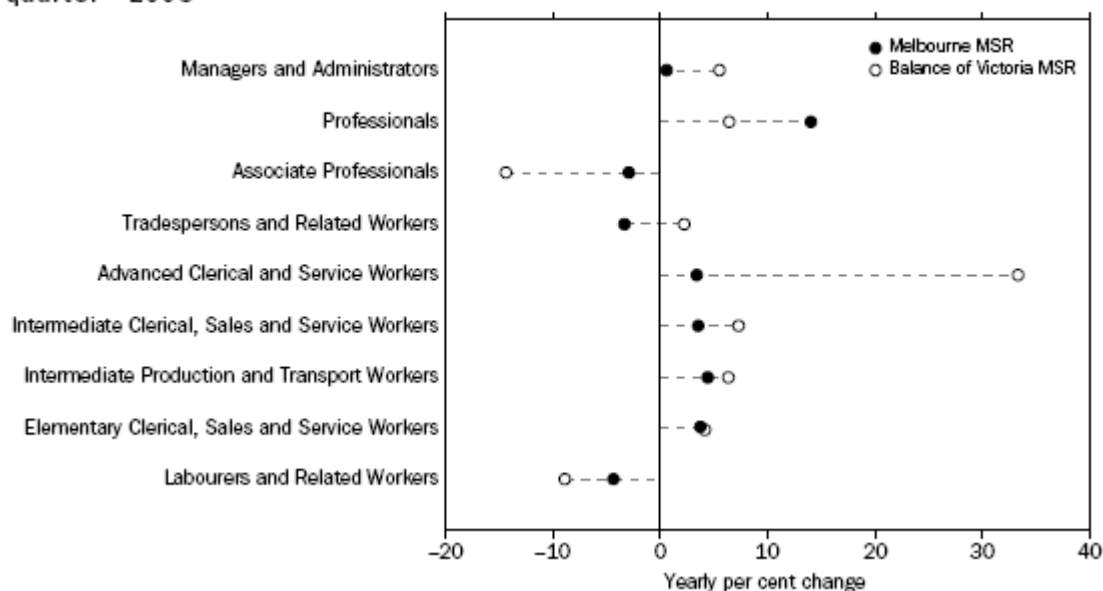
In the Melbourne MSR over half of full-time and part-time workers were employed in three occupational categories: Professionals (24.2%), Intermediate Clerical Sales and Service Workers (16.5%) and Associate Professionals (12.5%). In the Balance of Victoria, Professionals was the predominant group of workers (15.7%) followed closely by Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (14.4%) and Tradespersons (14.2%).

Dissecting occupation by gender reveals that in the Melbourne MSR the three most predominant occupations for female employees were Professionals, Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service and Elementary Clerical, Sales and Services Workers (27.6%, 24.7% and 12.4% respectively). For male employees, the three most predominant occupations were Professionals, Tradespersons and Associated Professionals (21.3%, 18.7% and 12.9% respectively). In comparison, the proportion of female employees working as Professionals in Balance of Victoria was slightly lower (21.0%) and significantly lower for male employees (11.4%). The predominant occupation for females in Balance of Victoria was Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service (25.4%) while male employees tended to work as Tradespersons (23.0%), Managers and Administrators (15.7%) and Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (15.1%).

Full-time workers in the Melbourne MSR worked mainly as Professionals (25.9%), Associate Professionals (14.2%), Tradespersons (14.0%) and Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (13.8%). In the Balance of Victoria the three most predominant occupational groups working on a full-time basis were Tradespersons (18.5%), Professionals (17.5%) and Associate Professionals (13.8%).

In terms of part-time workers, in the Melbourne MSR three occupational groups comprised 63.6% of the total: Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service (23.4%), Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service (20.4%) and Professionals (19.8%). Part-time workers in Balance of Victoria tended to concentrate predominantly in the following occupations: Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service (23.3%), Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service (20.1%) and Labourers (14.6%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Occupation, Melbourne MSR and Balance of Victoria: February quarter—2008



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 7, Employed Persons, By Occupation and Major Statistical Region - February Quarter 2008 (file size 15kB).

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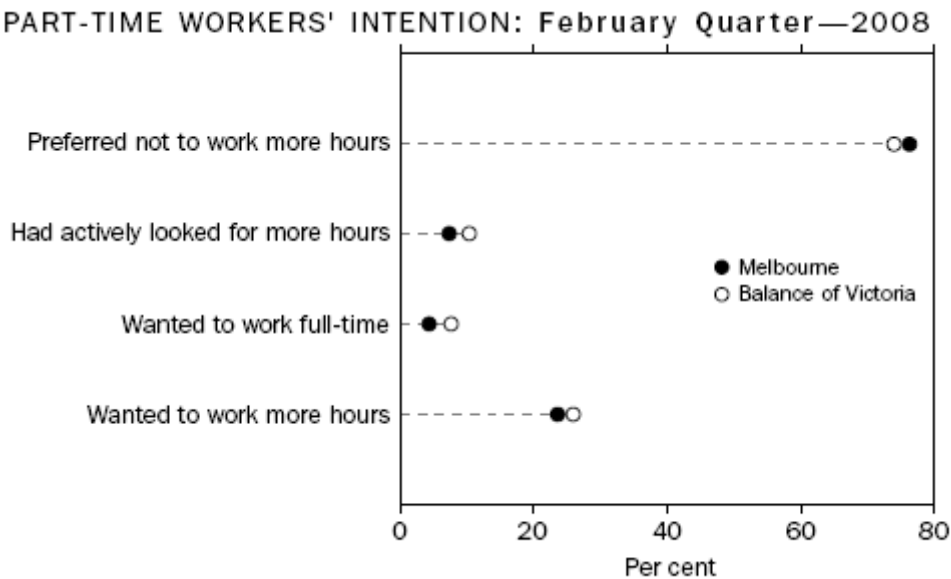
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## Part-time Workers

**PART-TIME WORKERS**

In February quarter 2008, there were 542,100 part-time workers in the Melbourne MSR. From February quarter 2007 to February quarter 2008, total part-time workers increased by 20,300 persons (3.9%) in the Melbourne MSR. Females accounted for the majority of part-time workers (68.5%) in the Melbourne MSR. Most part-time workers (76.3%) preferred not to work more hours, and this was more common amongst females than males.

In the Balance of Victoria, the total number of part-time workers in February quarter 2008 was 215,900, an increase of 500 persons (0.2%) since February quarter 2007. The majority of these part-time workers (74.0%) preferred not to work more hours. Again this response was more prevalent amongst females than males.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 8, Part Time Workers, By Sex, Melbourne (file size 14kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 9, Part Time Workers, By Sex, Balance of Victoria (file size 14kB).

**Duration of Unemployment**

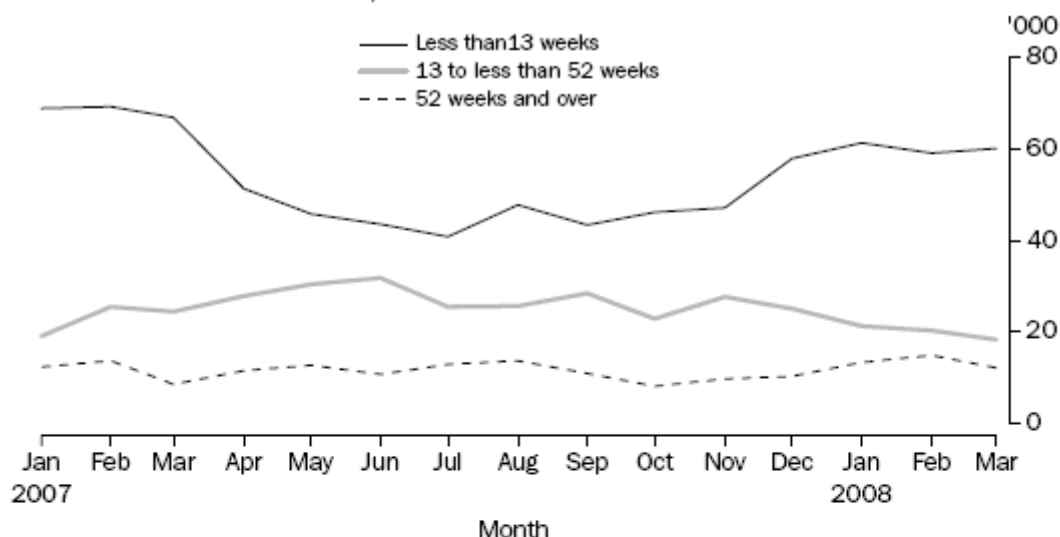
**DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT**

Between March 2007 and March 2008, the number of persons unemployed in the short term (for less than 13 weeks) decreased by 10.3% in the Melbourne MSR and by 11.8% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

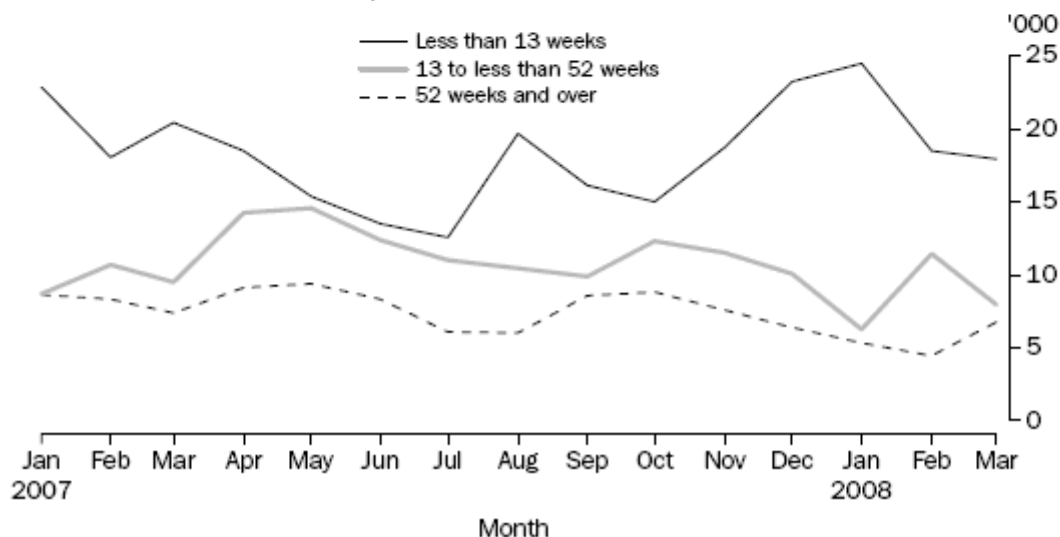
Over the same period, the number of medium term unemployed (13 to less than 52 weeks) decreased by 25.3% in the Melbourne MSR and by 15.8% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

The number of long term unemployed (those unemployed for 52 weeks or more) increased by 41.2% in the Melbourne MSR and fell by 8.1% in the Balance of Victoria MSR.

PERSONS UNEMPLOYED, Melbourne



PERSONS UNEMPLOYED, Balance of Victoria



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 10, Duration of Unemployment, By Sex and Major Statistical Region (file size 17kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 11, Unemployment Rate Estimates, By Local Government Area, Smoothed Series (file size 18kB).

# Average Weekly Earnings

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## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

In November quarter 2007, the trend estimate of full-time adult average weekly ordinary time earnings was \$1,090.8, an increase of 4.9% from November quarter 2006. Over the same period, trend adult male full-time ordinary time earnings increased by 4.7%, compared to 3.9% for adult female earnings.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 12, Average Weekly Earnings of Employees, By Sex, Victoria, All Series (file size 14kB).

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## State Final Demand

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## State Final Demand

## STATE FINAL DEMAND

State final demand measures the total value of goods and services that are sold in a state to buyers who wish to either consume them or retain them in the form of capital assets. It excludes sales made to buyers who use them as inputs to a production activity, export sales and sales that lead to accumulation of inventories.

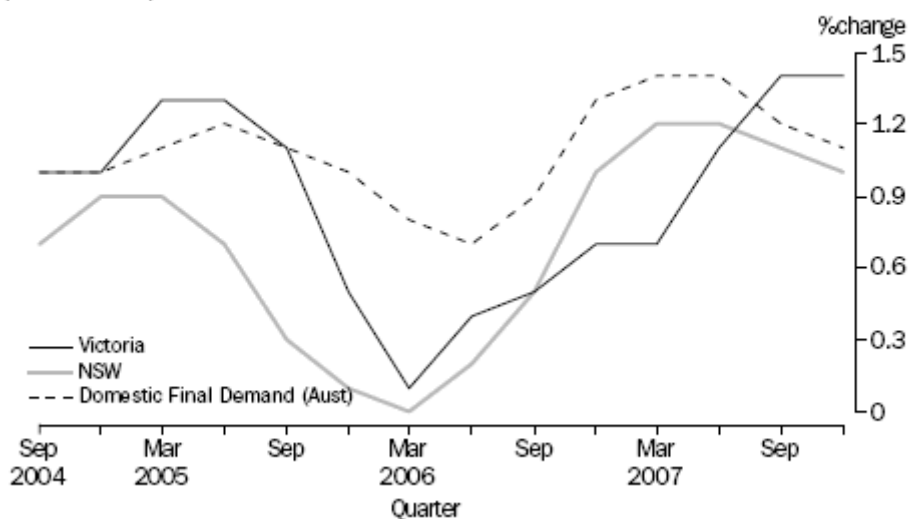
Measures of state final demand make no distinction between demand that is met by goods and services produced within the state in question, by supplies sourced from another state, or from overseas. State final demand is therefore not a measure of the value of production activity occurring within a state.

Note: As of 20 November 2006, the Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised. For the purpose of ABS statistics this change from public to private sector is effective from March quarter 2007. The classification of Telstra has changed from public sector to non-financial corporation from the March quarter 2007. There is a trend break from March quarter 2007 in a number of series related to the privatisation of Telstra. As a result no trend estimates are published for these series. For more information please see **Information Paper: Treatment of Telstra in ABS statistics** (cat. no. 8102.0) released 26 February 2007.

For the December quarter 2007, the trend estimate for Victorian final demand, in volume terms, was \$63,851m, an increase of 1.4% on the September quarter 2007. This was above both the trend growth level for New South Wales (1.0%) and the Australian trend estimate (1.1% domestic final demand) over the same period.

Household final consumption expenditure is the single largest component of state final demand. In December quarter 2007, this component accounted for 58.3% of the trend volume estimate of state final demand and recorded an increase of 1.3% on the September quarter 2007. The other main contributors were private gross fixed capital formation (22.5% of trend state final demand) and government final consumption expenditure (16.6%).

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures—Change from previous quarter: Trend



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 13, State Final Demand, Seasonally Adjusted and Trend (file size 15kB).

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## Consumer Price Index

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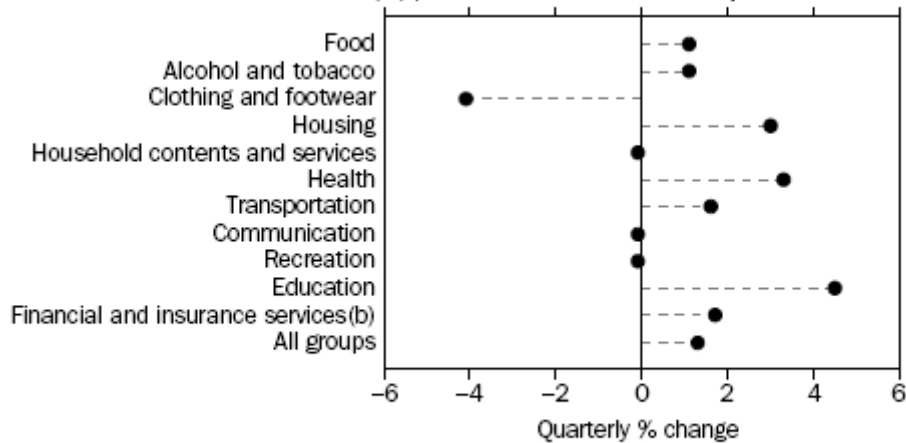
### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Between December quarter 2007 and March quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 1.3%. The groups which recorded the largest increases were Education (4.5%), Health (3.3%) and Housing (3.0%). The groups which recorded decreases were Clothing and footwear (-4.1%), Household contents and services, Communication and Recreation (-0.1% each).

Between March quarter 2007 and March quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 4.4%. The CPI all-groups weighted average for the eight capital cities rose by 4.2% over the same period. The biggest yearly increases for Melbourne occurred in Financial institution and insurance services (8.1%), Transportation (6.9%) and Housing (6.2%). The groups which recorded a decrease for the year were Clothing and footwear (-1.6%) and Household contents and services (-0.6%).



### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX(a), Melbourne: March quarter—2008



(a) Unless otherwise specified, base of each index: 1989-90 = 100.

(b) Base: June quarter 2005 = 100.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 15, Consumer Price Index, By Group, Melbourne (file size 14kB).

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## House Price Indexes

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### HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

The price index for established houses covers transactions in detached residential dwellings on their own block of land regardless of age (i.e. including new houses sold as a house/land package as well as second-hand houses). Price changes therefore relate to changes in the total price of dwelling and land.

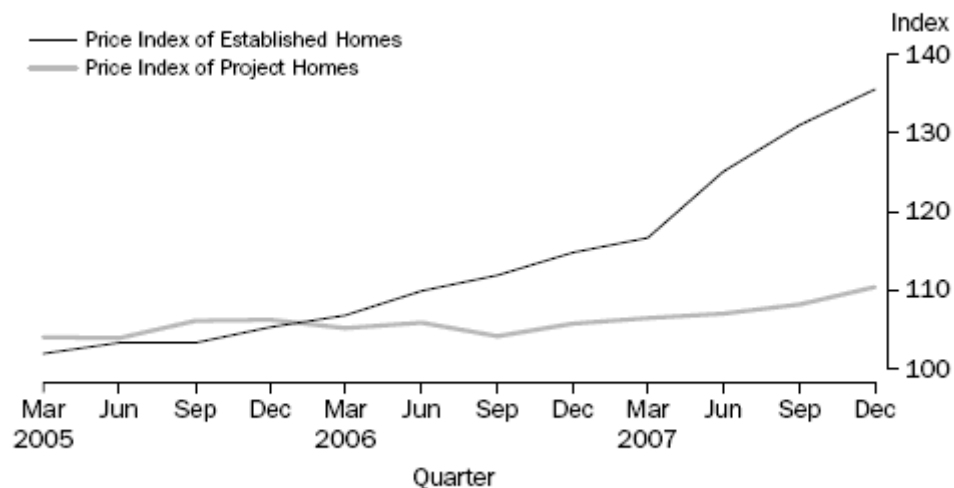
Project homes are dwellings available for construction on an existing block of land. Price changes relate only to the cost of constructing the dwelling (excluding land).

September quarter 2005 saw the introduction of a new methodology for compiling the established house price index. A detailed discussion of the new methodology is provided in **Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index** (cat. no. 6417.0) released on 30 November 2005. The new established house price index commenced from March quarter 2002 and has a reference base of 2003-04 = 100.0. A new weighting pattern for the project home price index was introduced in September quarter 2005 (see Explanatory Notes to cat. no. 6416.0).

The price of project homes in Melbourne rose by 2.0% during the December quarter 2007. Preliminary estimates show the price of established homes has risen by 3.4% in Melbourne over the same period. These followed a rise of 1.0% in project homes and a rise of 4.8% in established homes in the previous quarter. Preliminary estimates of the weighted average of the eight capital cities showed a rise of 3.2% in established house prices and 1.4% in project house prices in December quarter 2007.

From the December quarter 2006 to December quarter 2007, established home prices in Melbourne rose by 18.1% while project home prices rose by 4.3%.

## HOUSE PRICE INDEXES, Melbourne



(a) Base of the index: 2003-04 = 100.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 16, House Price Indexes, Melbourne And Weighted Average Of Eight Capital Cities (file size 14kB).

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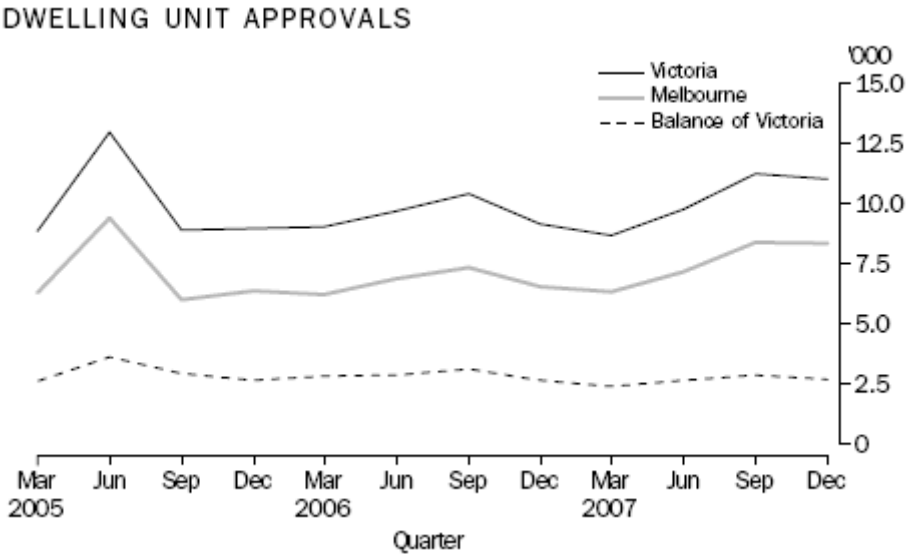
## Building Approvals

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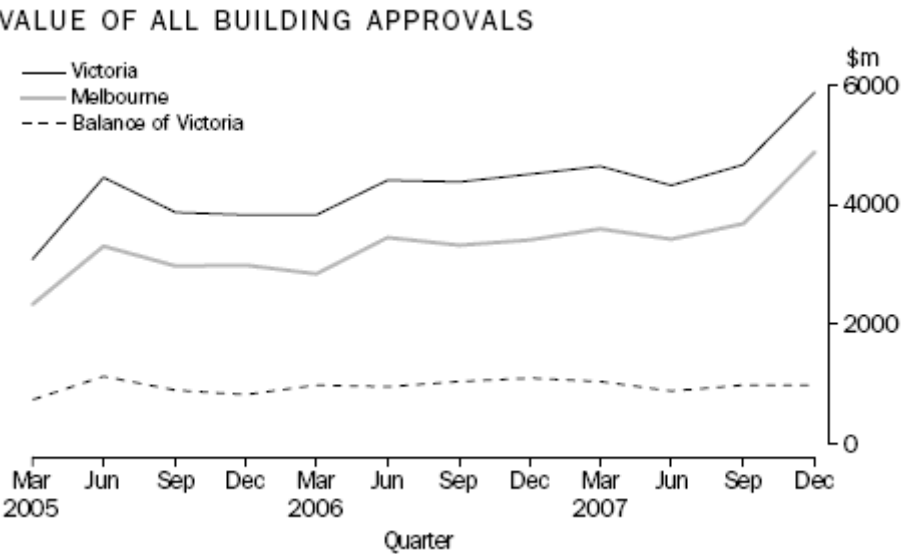
### BUILDING APPROVALS

In December quarter 2007, the total number of new dwelling units approved in Victoria was 10,986. This was 226 fewer than in the September quarter 2007, or a decrease of 2.0%. Over the same period, the number of new dwelling units approved in Melbourne MSR decreased by 0.3%, while in the Balance of Victoria MSR the decrease was 7.0%. In the Melbourne MSR, the highest number of new dwelling units approved in the December 2007

quarter were in Melbourne (790), Wyndham (721) and Melton (595). For the year ended December quarter 2007, the biggest increases in new dwelling unit approvals were in Melbourne (555), Melton (178) and Whittlesea (165) and the largest decreases were in Yarra (-160), Port Philip (-155) and Frankston (-85).



The value of new building approvals for Victoria was \$1,202.5 million higher in December quarter 2007 than in the previous quarter.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 17, Building Approvals, By Local Government Area (file size 18kB).

## Engineering Construction Activity

## **ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**

The total value of engineering work done during December quarter 2007 was \$1,760.5m, an increase of 3.9% from September quarter 2007. The overall increase in December quarter 2007 was mainly due to increases in the value of work done for Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines (\$47.0m), Roads, highways and subdivisions (\$32.0m), Telecommunications (\$17.3m), and Heavy industry (\$16.0m).

In contrast, the value of work done for Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage fell by (\$48.1m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 18, Engineering Construction Activity, By Type, Victoria, Original (file size 15kB).

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## **Tourist Accommodation**

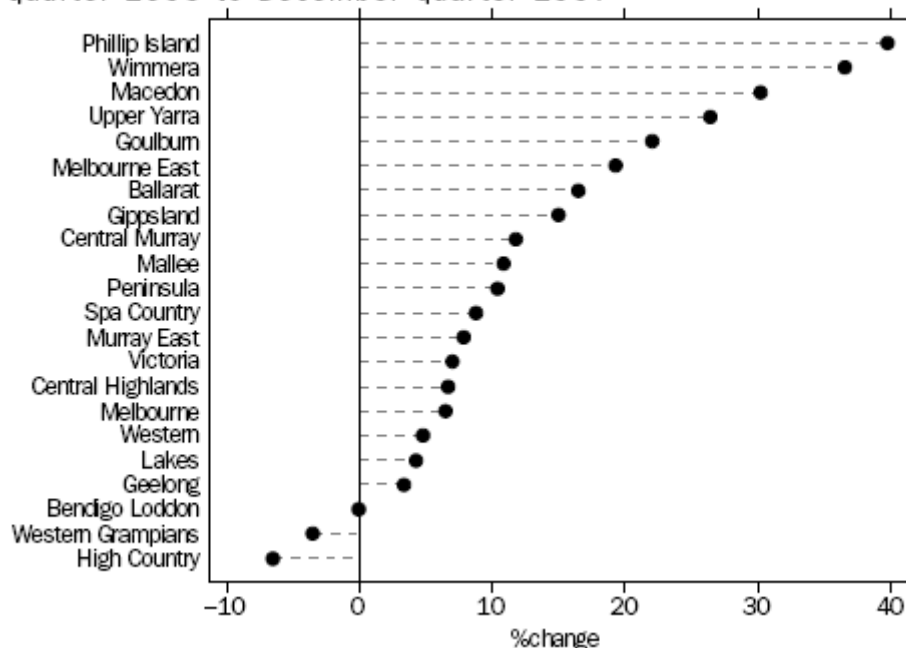
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### **TOURIST ACCOMMODATION**

In December quarter 2007, total takings from tourist accommodation in Victoria were \$353.2m, an increase of 7.0% over December quarter 2006. The Melbourne Tourism Region accounted for the majority of Victoria's accommodation takings (79.3%).

The highest growth in accommodation takings between December quarter 2006 and December quarter 2007 occurred in the Tourism Regions of Phillip Island (39.7%), Wimmera (36.5%) and Macedon (30.2%). The only Tourism Regions which experienced a decline in accommodation takings were High Country (-6.5%) and Western Grampians (-3.5%).

TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION, Percentage Change—December quarter 2006 to December quarter 2007



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 19, Tourist Accommodation, By Tourism Region - December Quarter 2007 (file size 14kB).

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## Agriculture

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### AGRICULTURE

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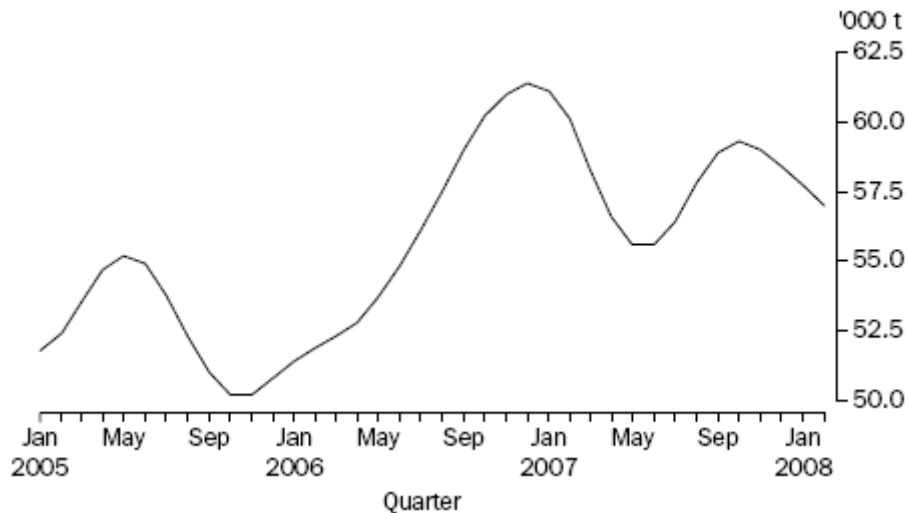
## Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production

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### LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Between February 2007 and February 2008, the trend estimate for total meat production for Victoria fell by 5.1% from 60,057.9 tonnes to 56,992.7 tonnes. The production of veal and lamb increased by 12.6% and 0.2% respectively, while falls in production were recorded for pig meat (-12.8%), beef (-7.6%) and mutton (-3.1%) over the period.

TOTAL MEAT PRODUCTION, Victoria: Trend



The trend estimate for livestock slaughtering decreased by 132,100 (9.6%) between February 2007 and February 2008. This decrease was a result of reductions across all five categories of livestock. Pig slaughtering experienced the highest fall (-21.6%) while calves, sheep, cattle and lamb slaughtering decreased by 18.9%, 15.2%, 11.2% and 5.1% respectively over the period.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 20, Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production, Victoria, All Series (file size 15kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 21, Other Agricultural Production (file size 15kB).

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## Trade

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### TRADE

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- Balance of Trade
- Trade by Commodity
- Major Trading Partners

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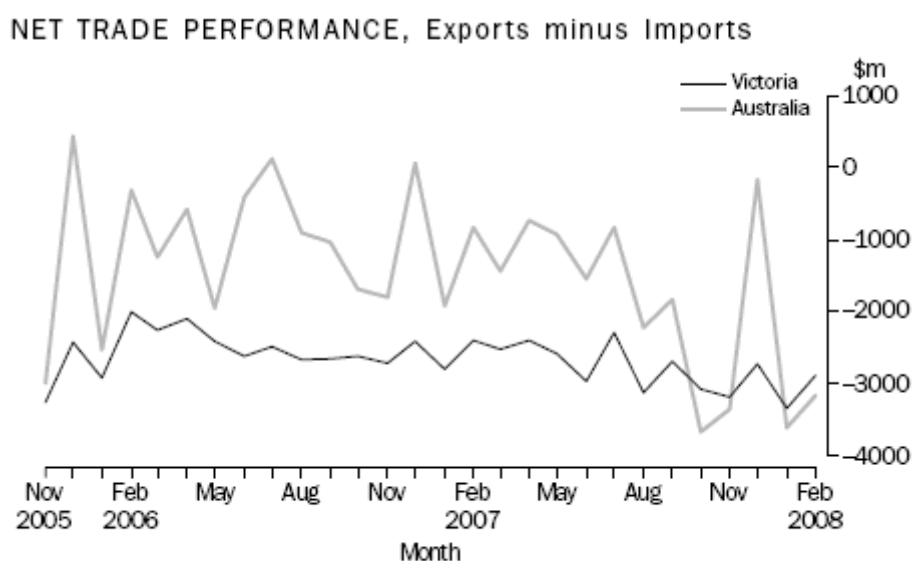
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## Balance of Trade

## BALANCE OF TRADE

In February 2008, the value of Victoria's exports was \$1,779m. This was 17.6% higher than in February 2007. Over the same period, the value of imports rose by \$741m or 18.9% and Victoria's overall net trade position declined by \$474m or 19.7%. On average, Victoria recorded a monthly trade deficit of \$2,818.6m in merchandise trade for the year ended in February 2008.

At the national level, exports (including re-exports) were 1.8% higher in February 2008 than in February 2007, whilst imports rose by 18.2%.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 22, Balance of International Merchandise Trade (file size 14kB).

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## Trade by Commodity

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### TRADE BY COMMODITY

For the year ended February 2008, Victoria's merchandise exports rose by \$265m (1.3%) in comparison to the year ended February 2007. Rises in exports were recorded mainly for Commodities and transactions merchandise trade n.e.c. (\$533m), Machinery and transport equipment (\$447m) and Chemical and related products, n.e.c (\$170m). Exports of Beverages and tobacco (-\$354m), Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (-\$316m) and Food and live animals (-\$206m) experienced the highest decreases over this period.

Over the same period, the total value of Victoria's merchandise imports increased by \$3,901m (7.8%), with increases recorded in all of the import commodity categories. The largest increases were recorded in Machinery and transport equipment (\$1,835m), Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$612m) and Food and live animals (\$419m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 23, International Merchandise Trade, By Commodity (file size 14kB).

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## Major Trading Partners

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### MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

For the year ended February 2008, Victoria's trade deficit was -\$33,822m. Victoria recorded its highest trade deficit with China (-\$6,854m) followed by USA (-\$5,286m) and Japan (-\$3,353m). For the same period, Victoria recorded its highest trading surplus with Saudi Arabia (\$993m) followed by Papua New Guinea (\$148m) and Hong Kong (\$79m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 24, International Merchandise Trade, By Major Trading Partners (file size 14kB).

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## Environment

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### ENVIRONMENT

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## Air quality

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### AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Index compiled by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority measures the concentration of various pollutants relative to the levels at which they may cause harm.



The index is available for four areas in the Port Phillip Region (East, West, City and Geelong) and the Latrobe Valley.

The Visibility Pollutant Index is an indicator of visibility reduction. Visibility incidents are generally higher during cooler months of Autumn and Winter (from May to September), whereas ozone values are generally higher during warmer months of Spring and Summer (from November to February).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 25, Air Quality (file size 19kB).

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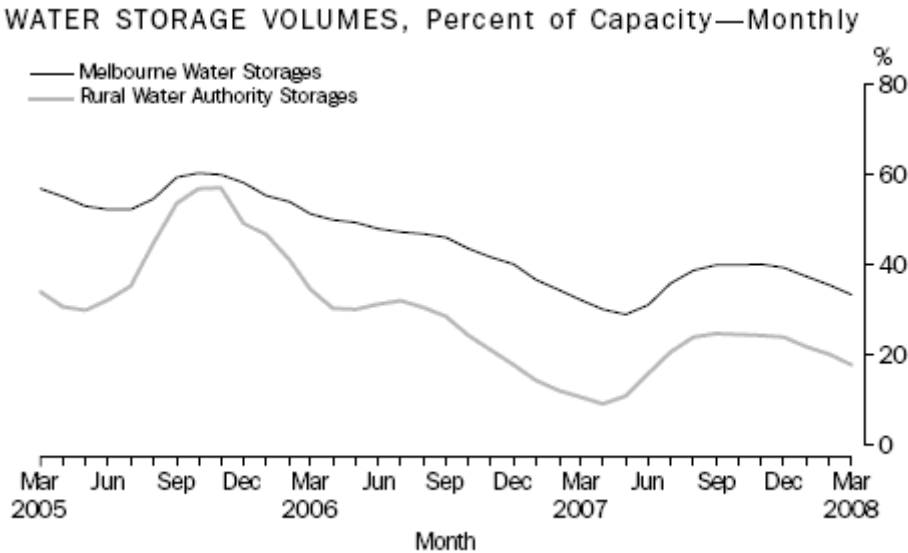
# Water Resources

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## WATER RESOURCES

At the end of March 2008, Victoria's water storages were at 17.5% of capacity. This was 2.2% lower than the level in February 2008, and 6.2% higher than in March 2007.

Melbourne's water storage levels at the end of March 2008 were at 33.2% of capacity. This was 2.2% lower than in February 2008 and 1.2% higher than in March 2007. Rural water storages held 17.6% of their capacity at the end of March 2008, 2.4% lower than in February 2008, and 7.1% higher than the level in March 2007.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Table 26, Water Storages, By River Basin, Victoria (file size 14kB).

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# Workplace Growth in Victoria 2000—2007 (Feature Article)

## FEATURE ARTICLE: WORKPLACE GROWTH IN VICTORIA 2000—2007

[Introduction](#)

[Data source](#)

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[Workplace growth by Major Statistical Region](#)

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### INTRODUCTION

Between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2007, Victoria experienced a net increase of 2.4% or 5,017 workplaces, largely driven by growth in workplaces outside of Melbourne. Over the same period the Communication Services industry experienced the fastest workplace growth, while the Construction industry saw the largest increase in the number of workplaces. These were some of the key findings from a report prepared by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the Victorian state government which involved the analysis of Victorian WorkCover Authority (VWA) data from 30 June 2000 to 30 June 2007.

Estimates of workplace activity using VWA data had been published in two previous feature articles; [Estimating Workplace Growth from WorkCover Data](#) (cat. no. 1367.2 September Qtr 2003) and [Workplace Growth 2003-05](#) (cat. no. 1367.2 March Qtr 2007). In response to continuing demand from users for regional estimates of workplace activity the ABS has extended its analysis of VWA data to produce experimental trend estimates of regional workplace activity. This article summarises the key findings from the analysis of VWA records over a 7 year period (30 June 2000 to 30 June 2007), including a brief description of the methodology and data validation underlying these experimental estimates.

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### VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY DATA

The scope of the population covered by the WorkCover dataset comprises all Victorian WorkCover insured workplaces that employ workers and have annual remuneration greater than \$7,500 and all workplaces (regardless of remuneration) which employ trainees or apprentices. As the VWA dataset collects information on the industry (ANZSIC 93) classification, location (postcode) and annual remuneration expense of workplaces, it was considered to be a suitable data source for producing estimates of workplace and remuneration growth at both a regional and industry level.

The records exclude a number of workplaces such as Commonwealth employers and Commonwealth government trading enterprises, which are insured through Comcare. Sole traders, self employed and contractors are usually not included in the VWA records as they do not have employees. The data also excludes the 38 “self insurers” (as at 30 June 2007). Self insurers are organisations approved by the VWA to manage and be liable for their own workers' compensation claims and are therefore not included in the VWA collection. The 38 self insurers (for the 2006-07 financial year) were large corporations, representing approximately 8% of total remuneration([footnote 1](#)) for all Victorian workplaces, making their omission alone significant.

Despite these limitations, as workers' compensation is a compulsory requirement the VWA

data continues to be seen as a valuable source for measuring workplace growth. Findings from previous ABS studies verified that data items relating to workplace counts and remuneration were reliable. For these reasons, the ABS decided to continue using this data to produce experimental time series estimates of regional workplace growth.

It is important to acknowledge that there is no connection between the growth in the number of workplaces in a region and the region's economic performance. For example, an increase in the number of workplaces could be associated with a decrease in the region's contribution to Gross State Product if the new workplaces were making a net loss. Similarly, areas such as Melbourne may contain a large number of head office corporations, while regional areas may be dominated by agricultural workplaces. Simple comparisons in the number of workplaces between such disparate regions need to take these factors into consideration.

It is also worth noting that the analysis of real total workplace remuneration([footnote 2](#))\_does not attempt to provide detailed industry or regional remuneration analysis. WorkCover total workplace remuneration growth can vary for reasons other than business closures or expansion, and can reflect businesses becoming self-insured (or being acquired by another business that self-insures) and hence excluded from the VWA data collection. The total workplace remuneration analysis included in this article aims to provide users with an additional regional economic indicator that complements the estimates of workplace growth.

Hereafter, 'real total workplace remuneration' shall be referred to simply as 'real remuneration'.

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## METHODOLOGY

Unit record files obtained from VWA contained data for all workplaces registered with WorkCover on 30 June for the years 2000 to 2007. The records were then checked for consistency and errors. These checks included the accuracy of coding to correct Victorian postcodes, identification of blank or missing values and other anomalies in the data, which amounted to less than one percent of all records. Records that included Victorian postcodes or localities that could not be concorded to a Local Government Area (LGA) were only included in the Victorian level analysis. As a result, the number of workplaces in Balance of Victoria (BoV) and Melbourne Major Statistical Region (MSR) will not sum to the Victorian total.

The VWA collects workplace locality information by postcode only, and therefore a concordance was applied to allow geographical analysis at the MSR, Statistical Division (SD) and LGA levels. In the absence of a business concordance, a population concordance was used. This introduces the assumption that distribution of human population and workplaces within any given LGA are the same, which can lead to possible sources of error. For example, a Local Government Area (LGA) boundary may cut across two postcodes dividing household residences from a commercial business park. In this situation a population based concordance will incorrectly attribute all workplaces to the LGA that contains the household residences.

The results obtained from the WorkCover dataset, for both workplace counts and workplace total remuneration, were validated for the financial year 2003-04 through data comparisons with other data sources of similar scope and coverage. These data sources included the **ABS Business Register Business Counts** (cat no. 8161.0.55.001), **ABS State Accounts** (cat. no. 5220.0) and **ABS Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics** (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003). While differences were found between data from the various sources, they were consistent with the known scope and coverage exclusions and definitional differences that exist between the compared data sources.

The estimates made available in this article include:

- growth rates of VWA workplaces over the time series June 30 2000 to 2007 for Victoria, Major Statistical Regions (MSRs), Statistical Divisions (SDs) and Local Government Areas (LGAs) and industry (ANZSIC 93 at the Division level);
- deflated or real remuneration growth for Victoria, MSRs and selected SD and industries and;
- the annual change in number of workplaces and real remuneration for selected geographies.

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## EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The information and experimental results presented in this article largely summarise the findings from the ABS Victoria's report '**Victorian WorkCover Workplace Growth Trend Analysis 2000-06**' which has been updated using 2006-07 data.

### State and Major Statistical Region

The total number of WorkCover workplaces across Victoria at 30 June 2007 was 216,519, an increase of 5,017 or 2.4% from June 2000. Over the same period Victoria's total real workplace remuneration grew by 25.1% with the fastest annual growth rate of 5.7% occurring in the 2003-04 financial year. This growth can be attributed to several factors such as an increase in the overall number of individuals employed and in the number of hours worked as well as an incremental growth in real wages.

In Melbourne MSR, there were 157,468 workplaces at 30 June 2007, or 72.7% of the total number of Victorian workplaces. Workplace numbers in Melbourne MSR increased by 2,594 or 1.7% between June 2000 and June 2007. Between 1999-00 and 2006-07, real remuneration for Melbourne MSR increased by 25.0% with the strongest annual growth rate of 5.5% recorded in the 2003-04 financial year.

At 30 June 2007, Balance of Victoria (BoV) contained 58,910 workplaces or 27.2% of the state's total workplaces, increasing its share by 0.5% since 30 June 2000. Over the 7 years, BoV recorded a stronger workplace growth rate than Melbourne MSR, increasing by 4.5% or 2,523 workplaces. During the same period, real remuneration growth in BoV was higher than Melbourne MSR, increasing by 26.5%. As with Melbourne MSR, the strongest annual real remuneration growth for BoV also occurred in 2003-04 where it increased by 6.2% from the previous financial year.

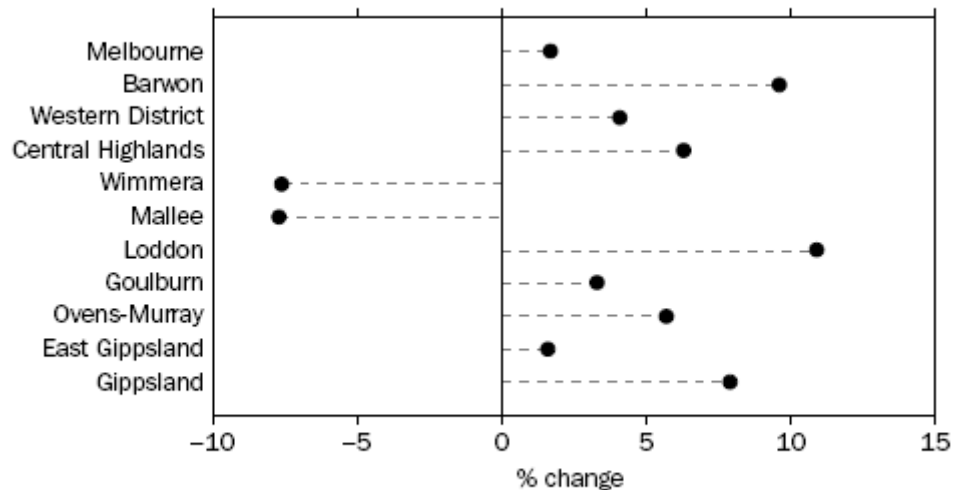
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### Statistical Division

The majority of the SDs outside Melbourne experienced an increase in workplaces between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2007. Over this period, Barwon recorded the largest increase in workplaces outside Melbourne, increasing by 857 workplaces or 9.6%, followed by Loddon (with 663 workplaces or 10.9%) and Gippsland (with 480 workplaces or 7.9%). Of these three SDs, Loddon was the only SD to record positive workplace growth in each year while Barwon and Gippsland each recorded small decreases in 2000-01 of 0.1% and 0.8% respectively. Mallee and Wimmera were the only two SDs to experience a net decline in workplaces over the 7 year period, decreasing by 398 workplaces (7.7%) and 218 workplaces (7.6%) respectively.

Growth rates across Victoria by SD are summarised in the graph below.

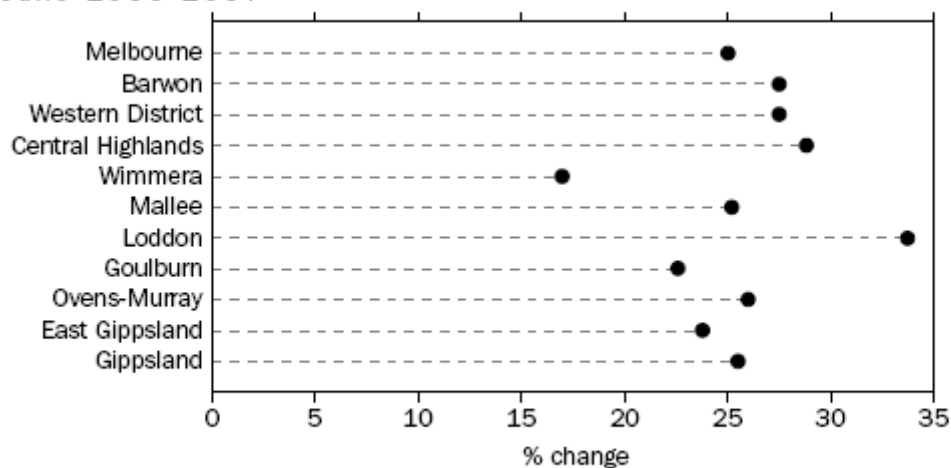
WORKPLACE GROWTH, By Statistical Division(a)—30 June 2000-2007



(a) The Off-Shore Areas and Migratory SD have not been analysed here.

Over the 7 years to 30 June 2007, the fastest real remuneration growth, outside Melbourne SD, was experienced in Loddon which increased by 33.7% while Wimmera (17.0%) recorded the slowest growth. Across Victoria, the fastest annual real remuneration growth across any financial year occurred in Gippsland (8.7%) during 2002-03. However in 2000-01, Gippsland recorded a decline of 3.5% in real remuneration which was the slowest annual growth rate of any SD over the 7 year period.

WORKPLACE REMUNERATION(a), Growth by Statistical Division(b)—30 June 2000-2007



(a) Deflated using WPI: Total hourly rates of pay including bonuses, Victoria.

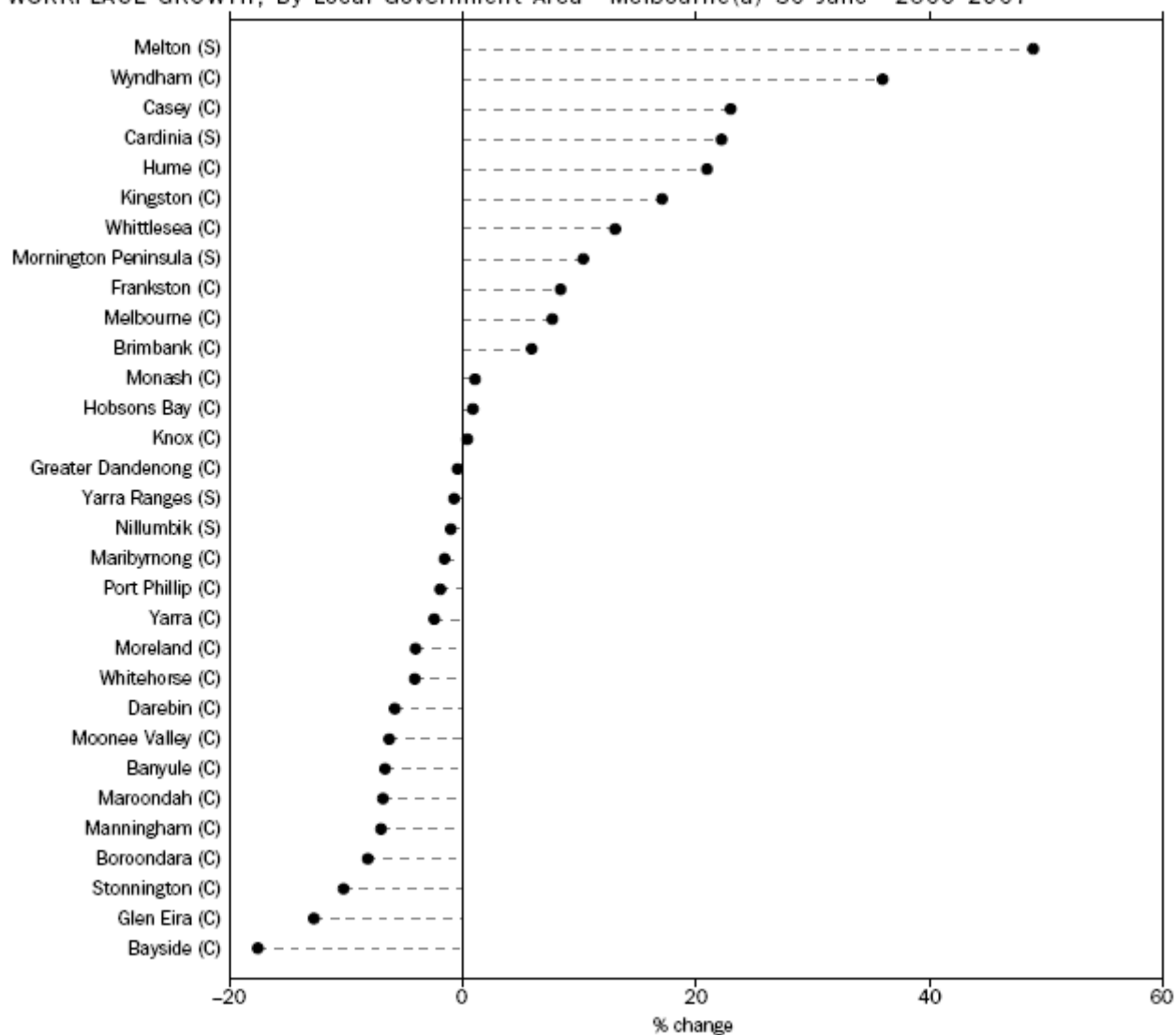
(b) The Off-Shore Areas and Migratory SD has not been analysed here.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

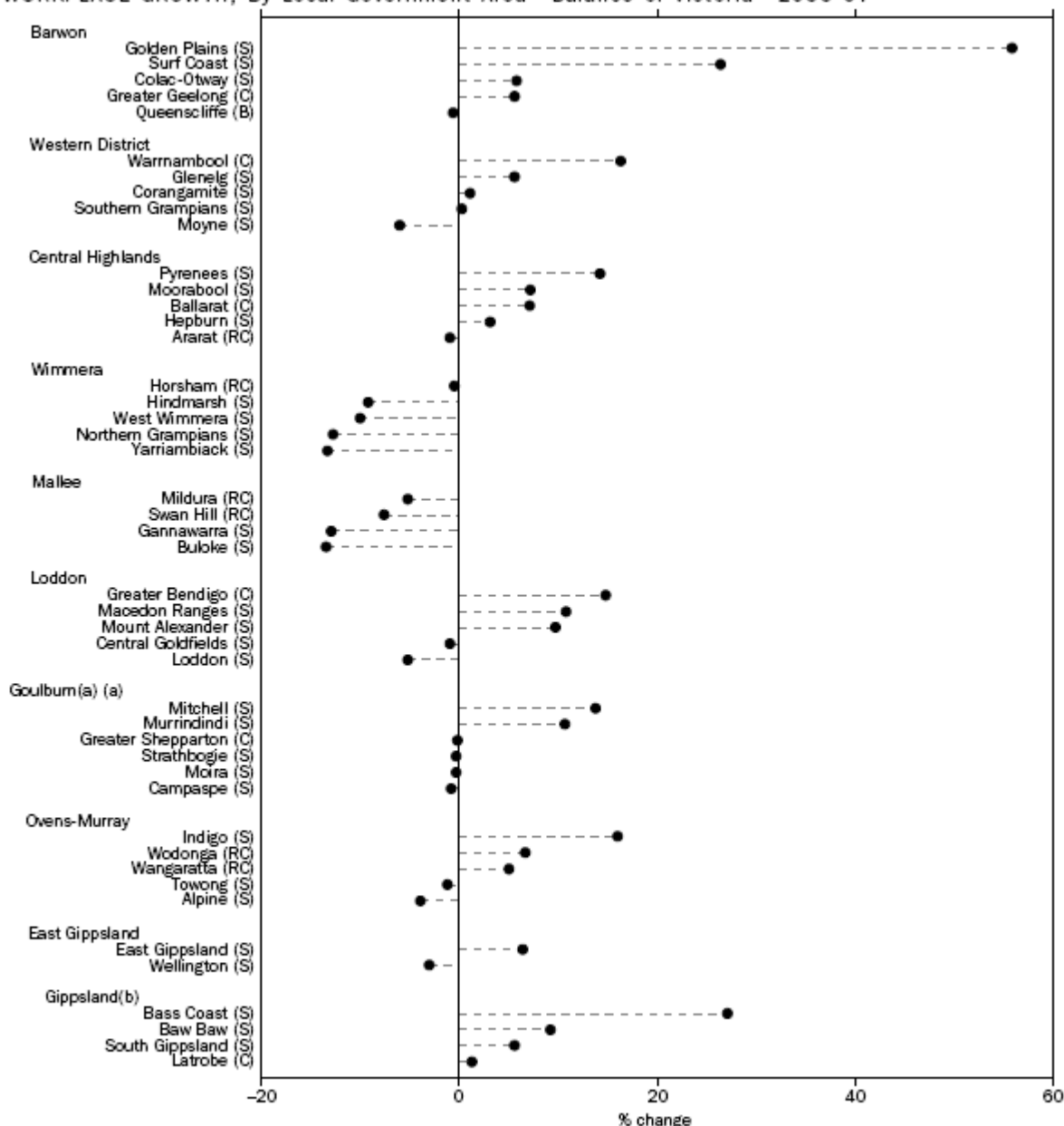
Workplace growth varied considerably across LGAs over the 7 year period analysed. The following graphs present workplace growth by LGA, grouped by their respective SDs. These estimates give an indication of where high and low growth in workplaces have occurred within each SD.

WORKPLACE GROWTH, By Local Government Area—Melbourne(a) 30 June—2000-2007



(a) The majority of Yarra Ranges (S) LGA is in the Melbourne statistical division. However, the Yarra Ranges (S) — Pt. B SLA is in the Gippsland statistical division. The estimates for the entire Yarra Ranges LGA have been reported as part of Melbourne.

## WORKPLACE GROWTH, By Local Government Area—Balance of Victoria—2000-07



(a) Goulburn SD excludes the Local Government Areas Benalla and Mansfield. They were created in 2003 and as a result these two LGAs do not have any data for 2000.

(b) The majority of Yarra Ranges (S) LGA is in the Melbourne statistical division. However, the Yarra Ranges (S) — Pt. B SLA is in the Gippsland statistical division. The estimates for the entire Yarra Ranges LGA have been reported as part of Melbourne.

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## WORKPLACE GROWTH BY INDUSTRY

Between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2007, 11 of the 17 industry divisions experienced workplace growth across Victoria. Communication Services experienced the fastest overall growth rate during this period increasing by 59.3% followed by Construction (24.0%) and Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (11.4%). Electricity, Gas and Water recorded the largest decline in workplaces between 30 June 2000 and 30 June 2007, decreasing by 16.8%. This was followed by Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing which declined by 9.5% and Manufacturing which declined by 9.2%. Over the same period, real remuneration for the Communication Services industry, Construction industry and Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants increased by 20.8%, 57.2% and 23.7% respectively, while Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing and Manufacturing increased by 8.9% and 0.6% respectively.

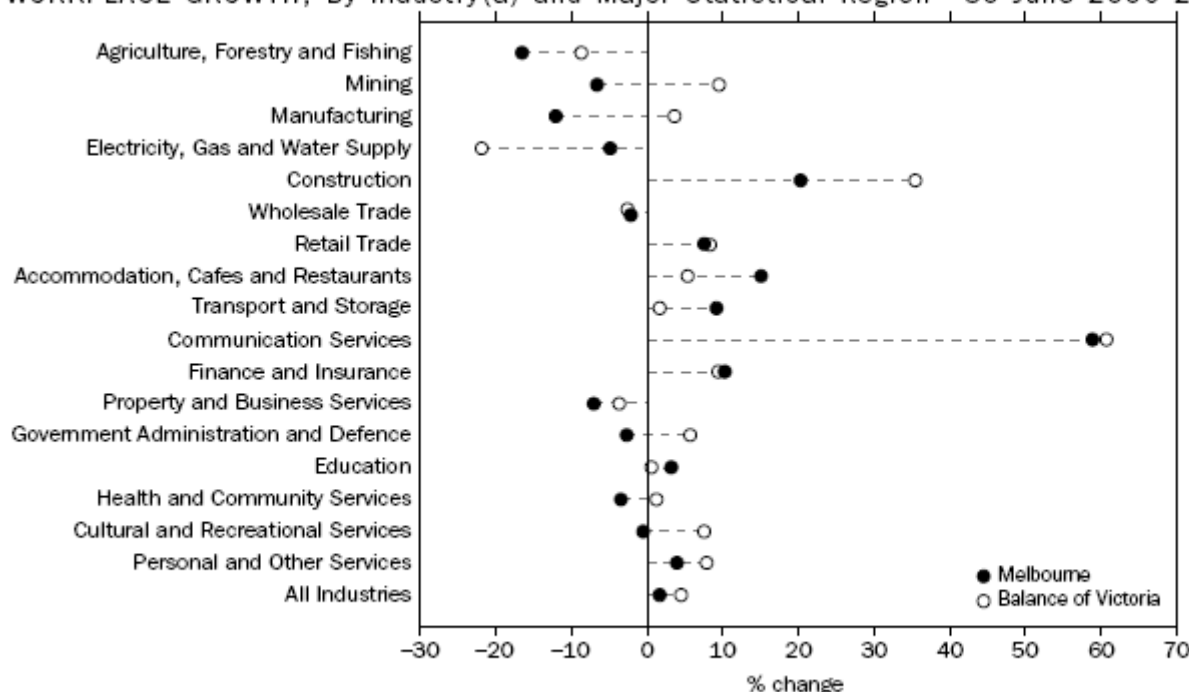
Within Melbourne MSR, the number of Communication Services industry workplaces grew by 58.8% or 164 workplaces while real remuneration for this industry increased by 10.4% over the 7 year period. Over the same period, the Construction industry recorded the largest

net growth in workplaces (3,488 workplaces) within Melbourne MSR and the second fastest workplace and real remuneration growth rates of 20.3% and 55.7% respectively.

For BoV, the Communication Services industry recorded the fastest workplace growth rate of 60.7% (or 67 workplaces). The Construction industry recorded the largest increase in workplace numbers (2,071 workplaces or 35.4%) as well as one of the fastest growth rates in real remuneration (64.6%) between 1999-00 and 2006-07.

The following graph details ANZSIC 93 Division (industry) workplace growth over the 7 year period ending 30 June 2007.

WORKPLACE GROWTH, By Industry(a) and Major Statistical Region—30 June 2000-2007



(a) ANZSIC 93 Division.

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## CONCLUDING COMMENTS

Although the VWA WorkCover data was found to be comparable to ABS data sources at the state-level, it was not possible to validate the sub-state level estimates included in this article. For this reason the results published in this article have been flagged as experimental and users need to take care when using these estimates in analysing regional workplace growth.

## FOOTNOTES

1 For a complete list of self insurers see [www.workcover.vic.gov.au](http://www.workcover.vic.gov.au). [<back](#)

2 Real total workplace remuneration was calculated by dividing the nominal total workplace remuneration by the ABS Wage Price Index (WPI): Total hourly rates of pay including bonuses, Victoria. The deflation of nominal total workplace remuneration by the WPI attempts to minimize the effect of price change over time and allows the derivation of changes in total workplace remuneration attributable to changes in the quantity of work performed. [<back](#)



# Explanatory Notes

## Glossary

### GLOSSARY

#### Chain volume measures

Annually-reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to the current price values in a chosen reference year (i.e. the year when the quarterly chain volume measures sum to the current price annual values). Chain Laspeyres volume measures are compiled by linking together (compounding) movements in volumes, calculated using the average prices of the previous financial year, and applying the compounded movements to the current price estimates of the reference year. Quarterly chain volume estimates are benchmarked to annual chain volume estimates, so that the quarterly estimates for a financial year sum to the corresponding annual estimate.

Generally, chain volume measures are not additive. In other words, component chain volume measures do not sum to a total in the way original current price components do. In order to minimise the impact of this property, the ABS uses the latest base year as the reference year. By adopting this approach, additivity exists for the quarters following the reference year and non-additivity is relatively small for the quarters in the reference year and the quarters immediately preceding it. The latest base year and the reference year will be advanced one year with the release of the June quarter data each year. A change in reference year changes levels but not growth rates, although some revision to recent growth rates can be expected because of the introduction of a more recent base year (and revisions to the current price estimates underlying the chain volume measures).

#### Duration of unemployment

The elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is the shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

#### Employed

Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers);
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;
  - on strike or locked out;
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job;
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## **Part-time workers**

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

## **Particles as PM<sub>10</sub>**

Particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres or less.

## **Seasonal adjustment**

A means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variations from economic time series so that the effects of other influences are obvious. Seasonal variations are the systematic (though not necessarily regular) intra-year movements of economic time series. These are often the result of non-economic phenomena, such as climatic changes and regular religious festivals (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

## **State final demand**

Conceptually identical to domestic final demand at the national level (the sum of private and government final consumption expenditure and private and public gross fixed capital formation).

National estimates are based on the concepts and conventions embodied in the System of National Accounts, 1993, but for regional (including state) estimates there is no separate international standard. Although national concepts are generally applicable to state accounts, there remain several conceptual and measurement issues that either do not apply or are insignificant nationally. Most of the problems arise in the measurement of gross state product for the transport and storage, communication services, and finance and insurance industries, where production often takes place across state borders. In these cases, a number of conceptual views can be applied to the allocation of value added by state. For more information, see chapter 28 of **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0).

## **Trend estimates**

Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of trend by removing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the respective seasonally adjusted series. Readers are reminded that trend estimates are subject to revision as subsequent months' data become available.

## **Unemployed**

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and:
  - were available for work in the reference week;
  - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

# Abbreviations

## ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Aust.	Australia
B	Borough
BoV	Balance of Victoria
C	City
CPI	consumer price index
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ERP	estimated resident population
FT	full-time
ha	hectare
kL	kilolitre
LGA	local government area
ML	megalitre
MSD	Melbourne Statistical Division
MSR	major statistical region
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
NEPM	National Environment Protection Measure
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
qtr	quarter
Qld	Queensland
RC	Rural City
S	Shire
SA	South Australia
SD	statistical division
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
SITC	Standard International Trade Classification
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
Tas.	Tasmania
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

